

B-53: Pod quality characteristics of Okra varieties

T G Chandrani¹, A Palamakumbura², U Samarajeewa¹, D B T Wijeratne²
(¹*Faculty of Agric, Univ of Peradeniya*, ²*Horticultural Research & Development Institute, Gannoruwa*)

Among the Departmental recommended okra cultivars MI-5 and MI-7 were very popular among farmers for the last 15 years. This is due to the high yield potential and tolerance to yellow mosaic virus (YMV) disease at the time of release. However, the resistance to YMV of these varieties has declined during the recent past and at present a new variety "Haritha" has been released as a replacement. The pod characters of "Haritha" are different to the MI varieties. This study was initiated to compare the physical, chemical and sensory characteristics of these varieties.

The above varieties were cultivated in the research field during Yala 1993. Three samples of each variety, comprising 5 pods per sample were evaluated for the physical, chemical and sensory characteristics. Optimum pod maturity was found to be 7 days after flowering for all 3 varieties. The pods of "Haritha" were found to be the smallest in size of all 3 varieties. With regard to colour "Haritha" exhibited a dark green shade, whereas in the case of MI varieties it ranged between light green to yellow. Also "Haritha" had 2-3 ridges, while others had 7-9 ridges. At the time of harvest it was observed there was no difference in the moisture content among the 3 varieties. MI-5 had the highest fibre content and "Haritha" had the lowest for the same age of pods. During storage only MI-7 became fibrous when harvested at 7-8 days after flowering. However, "Haritha", had the highest moisture loss during storage and wilted rapidly.